



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

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**FINAL DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR CHARGES
RELATED TO FEDERAL AGENT'S MURDER**

TUCSON, Ariz. -- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that Juan Manuel Umares-Rivas, 27, of Caimanero, Sinaloa, Mexico, was sentenced here today by U.S. District Judge John M. Roll to 15 years in prison followed by 36 months supervised release, after which Umares-Rivas faces deportation. Umares-Rivas pleaded guilty in March to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, and Use and Carrying of a Firearm During a Drug Trafficking Offense.

Umares-Rivas, a citizen of Mexico, fled to Mexico after the murder of Border Patrol Agent Alexander Kirpnick on June 3, 1998, in Potrero Canyon, west of Nogales, Ariz. He was arrested in Caimanero, Sinaloa, Mexico, on October 15, 2003, by agents of the Mexican Agencia Federal de Investigación (AFI), working in conjunction with the FBI, on a provisional arrest warrant issued by the Mexican government at the request of the U.S. government. Upon Umares-Rivas's extradition to the U.S., he made his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Tucson, Ariz. on March 3, 2004.

According to the plea agreement, Umares-Rivas admitted to possessing and transporting marijuana through the canyons near Nogales, Ariz. into the U.S. He also admitted that he knew one of his companions possessed and fired a gun in relation to their trafficking of drugs and that a law enforcement officer was murdered during the drug trafficking crime in which he and his companions all participated.

Umares-Rivas was charged in an information with violating Title 21, U.S. Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(D) and 846(a), Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Less than 50 kilograms of Marijuana, Title 21, U.S. Code, Section 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(D), Possession with Intent to Distribute Less than 50 kilograms of Marijuana, and Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 924(c)(1), Use and Carrying of a Firearm During the Commission of a Drug Trafficking Offense.

Three other individuals have been convicted of charges related to Agent Kirpnick's murder. Bernardo Velarde-Lopez was convicted of seven murder and drug charges and was sentenced to two consecutive life terms for First Degree Murder of a Federal Officer and Use and Carrying of a Firearm in which Death Results. Luis Enrique Arenas-Hernandez pleaded guilty to gun and drug charges and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Manuel Gamez was convicted of drug charges and sentenced to 151 months in prison.

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The investigation was led by agents of the FBI. It involved cooperation by Mexican authorities, agents of the FBI, U.S. Border Patrol, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

The prosecution was handled by Wallace H. Kleindienst and Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-0074-TUC-JMR (JM)

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